

a p p e n d i x b

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Back-arc Spreading—The region of crustal spreading between a volcanic archipelago and the continental interior.

Bars—Eddy or Shoulder Bars—Formed downstream from promontories or recesses.

Pendent Bars—Extended downstream behind the protection of a rock island or other obstruction.

Expansion Bars—Formed where the water spreads out after passing through a narrow point and deposits material.

Basalt—A dark-colored fine-grained extruded volcanic rock, rich in iron and magnesium, that is chiefly composed of plagioclase and pyroxene.

Basin—A circular or elliptical depressed area.

Braided River—A stream system so overloaded with sediment that there are many dividing and rejoining channels.

Colonnade—The lower portion of a lava flow with well-formed parallel shrinkage columns.

Columnar Jointing—Long joints in volcanic rock that splits into columns as the rock cools and contracts.

Continental Glacier—A thick ice sheet covering large parts of a continent.



Coulee—A dry trench-like intermittent streambed or wash.

Delta—A low flat tract of land at the mouth of a river composed of stream-deposited sediment, which is triangular in shape from an aerial view.

Entablature—The upper portion of a lava flow that displays irregular thin shrinkage columns.

Erratic—A large rock which has been moved by glacial ice.

Fault—A break in the earth's crust along which movement has taken place. Frequently occurs as a zone of numerous smaller faults.

Fault Trace—Intersections of faults with the ground surface (horizon); also called fault line.

Fauna—The entire animal population living in a given area, environment, or time span.

Flood Basalt—A plateau basalt. Successive flows of high temperature fluid basalt from fissure eruptions merge to form a continuous flat plateau.

Floodplain -The flat area where a stream or river may overflow.

Glacier—A mass of ice and snow that moves downhill because of gravity.

Graded Bedding—Rapid sedimentation leaving a distinctive texture of coarse grains followed by fine grains in a single layer. See Rhythmite.

Hanging Valleys—Smaller glacial valleys feeding into a deep main glacier trough.

Jokulhlaups—An ice dam failure or glacial outburst

Kolk Lake—A hole eroded by rushing water at the base of a broken dike; a deep pool, eddy or scour area which has filled with water.

Lithosphere—The outer 60 miles of the earth between the crust and mantle where the rocks are harder and more brittle. See Mantle.

Lode—Deposits in which ores have been placed into rock formations where they occur in veins.

Loess—Non-stratified silt, clay, and dust, originating as glacial sediment, but re-deposited by wind. Windblown silt.

Magma—A silica-rich molten fluid that appears on the surface as lava and which cools underground as a pluton.

Magma Chamber —A magma reservoir in the shallow part of the lithosphere.

Plunge Pools—A spot at the base of a waterfall where the descending force of the water strikes the bottom and carves out a basin. A deserted plunge pool is one whose waterfall has migrated upstream.

Potholes—A bowl-shaped depression in a rock surface that has been carved by the whirling action of stones in a stream bed.

Rhythmites—Layers consisting of gravel or sand at the base, followed by silt, then clay on top representing separate flooding events.

Rift—A narrow crevice or fissure in rock produced by splitting due to tension.



Ripple Marks—Deposits left by currents flowing over the bottom which warp the sediments into smooth, parallel, ridge rows resulting in washboard-like ripples which are regularly patterned.

Sand—Rock and mineral fragments ranging in size between 1/16 to 2 millimeters in diameter.

Scabland—An irregular surface of basalt that has been scoured of its soil cover by floods.

Spillways—Low divides which have been overtopped by floodwaters.

Strand—Beach and very shallow coastal area dominated by marine processes

Subduction Trench—A distinct linear groove on the earth's crust marking the boundary between two colliding plates.

Submarine Canyon—A steep V-shaped trench along or across a continental shelf or deep ocean floor.

Till—Loose sediment deposited by glaciers.

Watershed—The total area drained by a stream system.